

# CONGRESS DECREES WAR ON AUSTRIA

## Halifax Dead Reaches Total of Two Thousand

### U. S. SAILORS PATROL DEAD TOTAL HEAVY

At Least 2,000 Lives are Lost in Disaster at Halifax.

Halifax, Dec. 7.—No new estimate of the dead and injured was available here this morning, but it is still thought that two thousand lives were lost. Sailors from an American warship in port are on patrol duty in all the streets. All the power plants are idle.

Truro, N. S., Dec. 7.—A telegraph operator sent here from Halifax by the Western Union Telegraph company said today that he saw the bodies of several sailors of the United States navy, who had been killed by the explosion yesterday.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Five thousand are believed to have been killed in the explosion in Halifax harbor and the fire which swept north Halifax and Dartmouth, N. S., according to advices from a naval commander, reaching the navy department early today. The navy department said the figures had not been verified, however.

The report which came from a naval commander who witnessed the explosion from a point 52 miles off Halifax and later proceeded to the harbor to render aid, said that all of north Halifax was destroyed, three ships sunk and many others damaged. "The ruins of buildings are now burning fiercely in north Halifax," the dispatch concludes.

Reports to the navy department indicate there was no American ship in the harbor of Halifax at the time of the explosion and officials are inclined to think that if American sailors had been caught in the blast it would have been reported in the early dispatches from a naval commander who went in to help after hearing the detonation 52 miles at sea.

Scene of Destruction.  
Halifax, Dec. 7.—Smoldering ruins and piles of debris of demolished houses continued today to give up their dead victims of yesterday's explosion. The French line munitions-laden steamship *Monte Blanc*, following a collision in the narrow channel of Halifax harbor with the Belgian relief steamer *Imo* in such numbers as to surpass any disaster on this continent in recent years.

Estimates of the number of dead at 2,000 or more appeared to be borne out by the rapidly filling morgues and increasing numbers of deaths reported from hospitals, private homes, churches and schools, where hundreds of injured are being cared for by their more fortunate townsmen and members of relief parties from nearby cities.

The exact number of dead, it appeared certain today, might never be known, on account of the many persons—entire families in some instances—of whom no trace would be found either in their homes or in the ruins of their homes.

Days found the city still staggering under the lightfulness of its losses in human life and hundreds who had stood all night in lines formed at improvised morgues continued their vigil with alternate expressions of fear and hopes on their faces. Others besieged the hospitals for news of the missing and mourned while relief parties continued their work of succor among the injured whom they found in the devastated Richmond and Dartmouth sections of the city.

Food Supplies Rushed.  
Aid from the outside in the form of tons of supplies gave early evidence this morning that fears of a food shortage were unfounded and left city and government officials free to direct the rescue work in which soldiers, sailors and police are being assisted.

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### THE WEATHER

Forecast THU 7 P. M. Tomorrow, for Rock Island, Davenport, Moline and vicinity.  
Light snow this afternoon followed by generally fair and colder weather tonight and Saturday with the lowest temperature about 5 degrees below zero.  
Temperature at 7 a. m. 7. Highest yesterday 13. Lowest last night 6.  
Velocity of wind at 7 a. m. 2 miles per hour.  
Precipitation none.  
Relative humidity at 7 p. m. 84, at 7 a. m. 96. At 1 p. m. today 47.  
Stage of water I. S. a fall of .6 in last 24 hours.  
J. M. SHERIER, Meteorologist.

### Blast Came Half Hour After Ships Struck in Harbor

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 7.—Up to noon today there had been no change in the police estimate of two thousand dead from yesterday's disaster. About the same number are injured, two-thirds of whom are suffering from cuts from flying glass.

It was established today that it was 25 minutes before the explosion occurred.

At the first shock houses rocked, vessels broke from their moorings, bits of shells whistled through the air, buildings fell upon their occupants, shrieks and moans rose for a second above the awful din, and in parts of the city, men, women and children ran into the streets, many of them insufficiently clothed. Then fire broke out in a hundred places.

### ILLINOIS TAX ACTION SET ASIDE BY COURT

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 7.—The tax amendment to the Illinois constitution, voted on at the last general election, was effectively killed today by the supreme court, which denied a rehearing of the case, in which the court held, at the October term, that the amendment failed of passage because it had not received a majority of all the votes cast and not of those cast for members of the legislature.

In order to get a ruling from the supreme court the state canvassing board held that the amendment required only a majority of the ballot for members of the general assembly. The Sangamon county circuit court reversed this finding, and the supreme court affirmed the judgment of the lower court.

The amendment would have removed constitutional restrictions which make it impossible at present for the legislature to change the taxing system.

### MORE DEATHS FROM SICKNESS AT FRONT

Washington, Dec. 7.—Deaths from natural causes of men in the army in France were reported today as follows:

PRIVATE ADOLPH BIEDZYCKI, engineers, East Chicago, Ind.  
PRIVATE PAUL LINDLEY, engineers, Addy, Wash.  
MECHANIC C. C. MCNETT, field artillery, Casper, Wyo.  
PRIVATE WILLIAM S. MATTHEWS, stvedore regiment, Baltimore, Md.  
PRIVATE A. L. CLARK, infantry, East Hampton, Mass.

### CHAMPION STEER IS SOLD FOR RED CROSS

Chicago, Dec. 7.—Merry Monarch, owned by Dr. J. W. Monarch, great champion steer of the national livestock show this year was sold for \$2,000 to the American Short Horn Breeders' association today.

The association donated the animal which weighed 1,610 pounds to the American Red Cross, which resold it to Armour & Co. for \$3,381, or \$210 a pound, a record price.

The grand champion carload of Angus cattle owned by E. T. Hall of Meacham, Ill., went to Armour & Co. for \$42,500 a hundred pounds, a record price. Last year the price for the prize carload was \$28 a hundred pounds.

### Death Toll On Both Sides Shows Battle's Desperate Nature.

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Dec. 7.—The importance of the fighting around Asiago is not underestimated, but it is believed the line of resistance on which the Italians have retired is capable of holding the Frauentia and Gadenia passes leading to the Brenta valley and the open plain some miles below.

The fighting has been of the most desperate character, and while the enemy has paid dearly for his success the Italian losses also have been very heavy.

An eye-witness from the scene of operations gave the correspondent details of the bloody nature of the carnage.

Enemy reserves were poured in until the Italians were far outnumbered. They continued to struggle desperately, however, and in one case a small detachment of Bersaglieri met the shock of an entire Austrian regiment. Austrian Kaiserjaegers displayed unprecedented ferocity, using stiletos as well as bayonets in hand to hand fighting.

### STRONG ARM METHODS TO DEFEAT VOTE

Maximalists Expel Heads of Election Body From Palace.

London, Dec. 7.—An armed Maximalist force has occupied the Marie palace, according to a Reuters dispatch from Petrograd, and has expelled the all-Russian commission in charge of the elections for the constituent assembly.

Petrograd, Wednesday, Dec. 5.—The central executive committee of the workmen's and soldiers' delegates has adopted a measure, proposed by the council of national commissioners, for the recall of members of the constituent assembly, who, according to Nikolai Lenin, the Bolshevik premier, "do not express the will of the people."

The project provoked great opposition on the part of the moderate element of the committee, who termed it an attempt to curtail the rights of the members of the constituent assembly. In defending the measure, Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, said:

"Should there be a majority of the constitutional democrats, members of the right and social revolutionists, the people would forcibly dissolve the constituent assembly. This measure is meant to avoid the possibility of dissolution."

Since the system of representation in proportionate, an objection to one member of the constituent assembly would necessitate the recall of all the members of a given election district.

It is stated that M. Prokopovitch, former minister of supplies, after having signed the recent proclamation in the name of the Kerensky government, insisting on the calling of the constituent assembly, escaped arrest and joined General Kaledines, hetman of the Don Cossacks in the south. There also arrived at Kaledines' headquarters four other former ministers of the provisional government. Under former procedure, the five ministers constitute a quorum.

It is reported that General Kaledines has come to an agreement with the Ukrainian government not to invade Ukraine territory. It also is stated that the Bashkires, occupying parts of the Crenburg, Ufa, Perm and Samara governments, have declared themselves autonomous and have issued a call for an assembly, which is to convene in Orenburg Dec. 8.

### AMERICA IS MORE THAN MATCH FOR HUNS: POST'S VIEW

London, Dec. 7.—President Wilson's declaration in favor of war against Austria is approved by the Morning Post, which adds:

"We in this country can only say that when America goes to war, she goes to war. She will be more than a match for Germany and her allies."

"America is in a position to carry her resolve to execution. Alike in men and resources, skill and determination, America is superior to Germany, though she were fighting America alone. It is the present business of the allies to do their utmost in the interval which must elapse before American forces are finally effective. It is quite certain that Germany will utilize every moment."

"It is obviously her policy to force a decision in the next few months and the Germans, being fine soldiers, their leaders being desperate men, and nothing being certain in war, they have at least a sporting chance of success."

The Post then insists that the allies must call up every available man and increase the production of guns, airplanes and ships.

Paris, Dec. 7.—Commenting on President Wilson's message to congress the Temps points out that "win the war" is the motto which the message repeats and develops incessantly.

"Perhaps the most important passage in the message," says the newspaper, "is the intimation that the allies, if Germany persists after the war in constituting herself a danger to peace, will use a weapon which the president has heretofore never been willing to mention, but which he indicated yesterday in his reference to a refusal by the peoples which will constitute the society of nations to admit Germany to free economic relations."

"But it does not suffice to proclaim an economic threat, a real effect must be given it. The governments, producers, shipbuilders and traders of the allied nations must form agreements, which will allow at a day's notice the institution of a regime whereby Germany industry will be deprived of raw materials. German commerce deprived of outlets and German navigation deprived of freight and excluded from the ports. Germany will only really understand the power of our arms when she knows that they have been forged and are ready to strike."

### Trainmen Killed on Bridge; Cars Staged Runaway

Danville, Ill., Dec. 7.—Dropping down a steep hill with an electric locomotive to pick up a cut of runaway cars, two trainmen on the Illinois Traction system were killed here this morning.

They are Jesse Abbott, conductor, and Herman Barriker, brakeman, both of this city.

The men were riding the footboard of the engine and were killed when the engine and runaway cars collided on a high bridge.

### U. S. UNIT WINNER OF FRENCH HONOR

American Sanitary Section Has Shown Conspicuous Bravery in War Action Somewhere in France.

With the American Army in France, Thursday, Dec. 6, (By the Associated Press).—The first American unit to receive the coveted "fourragere," a French military decoration worn on the left shoulder in the colors of the ribbon of the cross of war, is American sanitary section No. 5. Notification of the award was announced at headquarters today.

The section previously had received two official citations. A general order from General Petain stated they were for "splendid conduct before the enemy."

In forwarding the commendations the chief of the French military mission attached to the American army said:

"This glorious distinction is a merited reward for the brave men composing the section, who on a famous battlefield have given evidence of the fraternity and solidarity between the soldiers of France and America, united in the common cause."

Information as to the exact nature of the section's services was unavailable at headquarters tonight.

### LONGER VACATION TO SAVE COAL SUPPLIES

Chicago, Dec. 7.—In order to save coal, school children of Chicago are to have an extra week of vacation at the Christmas holidays, according to an announcement made today by the board of education. They may make it up next June by having the summer vacation start a week later than usual.

The Chicago public schools will be closed from Dec. 21 to Jan. 7, 1918, for the holiday season. This is seven days longer than usual, and thus the fuel situation will be aided without injury to education.

The weather this year happens to be favorable to the enemy. The snow is only a few inches deep, whereas in December the snow usually reaches a depth of from four to ten feet. One such snowfall now would be worth divisions. Gray skies today indicated snow but the fall was light.

Austrian prisoners taken in the last few days say that the release of Russian prisoners held in Austria began 10 days ago. Austria took the initiative in this without waiting for Russia to release Austrian prisoners. Each Russian prisoner was schooled carefully in Austria's desire to end the war, and the whole body of these Russian prisoners was returned to Russia as a sort of propaganda for terminating the struggle.

The splendid showing the Italians made single-handed on the Asiago plateau is leading to the frequent remark that the Asiago plateau will be the Italian Verdun. While the Italians had fallen back as did the heroic defenders of Verdun, yet their main lines are intact and inspire confidence that the Italian will be able to hold the invaders from reaching the Italian plains.

Vienna Tells Battle Story.  
Vienna, Thursday, Dec. 6, (via London, Dec. 7).—(British Admiralty per Wireless Press).—The Austro-Hungarian general headquarters today issued the following communication:

"The enemy has suffered a heavy defeat. Early Tuesday after powerful artillery preparation in which the German batteries cooperated with the troops under Field Marshal Conrad, we launched an attack against the mountain positions in the Meletta region and having reached a high elevation freely installed with defensive works the stubbornly conducted defense was broken. The deep snow and severe cold rendered progress difficult but the careful preparation for the attack and the bravery of the attackers—natives from all parts of Austria-Hungary—were able to overcome every counter measure."

Italians Were Cut Off.  
"During the morning hours yesterday the enemy after a bitter struggle lost Monte Bello and the rear positions near Pozza. At two in the afternoon the brave Italian defenders who had been completely cut off for 24 hours on Monte Castelgomberto laid down their arms. All the terrain north of Frenzella ravine is in our hands."

In addition to their important sanguinary losses the Italians in these two days lost more than 11,000 prisoners and over 600 guns. Our losses, due to the clever conduct of the fighting operations were small.

Near Zenson where we have occupied the western bank of the Piave for weeks past, Egerland infantry regiments successfully withstood storming attacks of several hours' duration made by superior forces."

### FOE'S MOVES REAL DANGER FOR ITALIANS

Austro-German Army in Turning Tactics for North.

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Thursday, Dec. 6. (By the Associated Press).—The big operation which the enemy is attempting in the north is virtually a repetition of the turning movement he executed six weeks ago in the great offensive about Gorizia.

At that time he broke through the upper end of the line and thus endangered the lower end. This is exactly the situation which is being repeated today.

The Austro-German attack on Meletta not only affects the lines in that region, but if the enemy could pierce through and drive his way southward onto the plains, it might place him on the left flank of the Piave line, much as the Duke of Aosta had his third army at Gorizia with the enemy on his left flank. It is quite as much as the frontal attack that is receiving consideration. The line east of Asiago probably is stronger today than before the retirement yesterday, as it now is a straight line. Formerly it was like a long inverted letter V with the Italians on the inside of the V and the enemy on the outside.

It has been established that while Field Marshal Conrad von Hotzenlopf is directing the movement, General von Krobatsch's forces also are operating. In addition to the superiority in numbers, the Austro-Germans are taking advantage of the backward season and are striking before the mountain snows impede operations.

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Capture 4,000 More.  
Berlin, Dec. 7, (via London).—Four thousand more Italians have been captured in the new Austro-German offensive on the northern front, bringing up the total to 15,000, according to today's official communication.

### General Escaped Prison by Piece of Clever Work

Petrograd, Dec. 7.—General Korniloff, who had been under arrest since the collapse of his movement against Premier Kerensky, and whose escape from prison was recently reported, gained his liberty by a clever ruse on the part of friends who presented a forged document purporting to be a release signed by Shoblovsky, head of the commission having Korniloff's case under inquiry. This information has been received from Mohilev.

Korniloff marched out of the town at the head of 400 of the Tekin regiment, who composed the garrison, and who were favorable to him, accompanied by Generals Denikin, Markoff and Arloff, his erstwhile fellow prisoners.

RED CROSS READY FOR RELIEF WORK  
Special Trains Dispatched When News of Catastrophe Reached New York and Boston.

Washington, Dec. 7.—American Red Cross officials here today awaited details of the Halifax catastrophe prepared to send additional relief to that despatched by special trains from Boston and New York last night without formal call from Canada. Word reaching the navy department early today that the dead might reach 5,000 caused efforts to meet the situation to be redoubled.

The special trains bearing experienced relief workers and large quantities of medical supplies, food, clothing and bedding left Boston and New York simultaneously and word of their departure was forwarded to Canadian and Halifax authorities by W. P. Parsons, director general of the Red Cross civilian relief.

Poster Rockwell and L. S. Elsworth, workers in the Red Cross military relief, are in Halifax, and Mr. Rockwell telegraphed news of the explosion last night and said he would send details later. Elsworth's name was not mentioned but it was assumed he was safe and both were assisting in the relief. They had been sent to Halifax to establish rest canteens for soldiers.

CHICKEN JOE AGAIN.  
Chicago, Dec. 7.—Briefs will be filed with the supreme court at Springfield today asking a review of the case of "Chicken Joe" Campbell, awaiting execution for the murder of Mrs. Odette Allen, wife of the former mayor, at Joliet penitentiary June 20, 1915.

Campbell has been granted five reprieves—four by Governor Dineen and one by Governor Lowden. A number of prominent people are supporting the movement to bring the case of the convicted slayer to the supreme court.

SUMMARY SHOWS TREND OF EVENTS ON WAR SECTIONS  
(By The Associated Press.)  
German wedges driven into the salient before Cambrai have compelled the British to evacuate exposed points and they have given up to the Germans several villages west of Cambrai as well as the Bourlon wood.

The British line has been shortened and made more capable of strong defense by the retirement.

Berlin in its latest report claims the occupation of Morcelong, about four miles southwest of Cambrai.

Violent fighting continues on the northern Italian front between Asiago and the Brenta river where the Austro-Germans made gains Wednesday but have not yet been able to break the Italian line. The Italians, inflicting heavy losses on the attackers, retired gradually to prepared positions and gave up Monte Fior and Monte Castelgomberto.

On the western end of the line the Austro-Germans attempt to encircle the Meletta position and cut it off were defeated. Along the Brenta east of Monte Badeneche and Monte Tondarecar, lost Wednesday to the enemy, the Italians repulsed with heavy loss a determined effort to break through.

While German airmen were attempting a raid on London, British aviators penetrated the enemy aerial defense on the western front and dropped many bombs on towns and factories in Germany and airdromes in Belgium. In the raid over England the Germans lost two machines and the bombs they dropped caused slight casualties, seven killed and 21 injured. Calais, France, was raided the same night but there were no casualties.

While the Russian soldiers on a great section of the eastern front have agreed to a 10 day armistice with the Austro-Germans, there are indications that the Bolshevik government in Petrograd fears opposition. The Maximalist leader, has had the central executive committee of the workmen's and soldiers' delegates pass a measure calling for the recall of certain members of the constituent assembly, in which the Bolsheviks were not certain members of a they deserted the chamber in droves, to escape the speech making and return later for the voting.

After the house acts the two resolutions will be reconciled or one substituted for the other.

Vote Certain in House.  
Meanwhile there was every indication that the resolution would pass the house with only one dissenting vote—Representative London. Socialist members were so sure of that that they deserted the chamber in droves, to escape the speech making and return later for the voting.

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## BOTH HOUSES FOR FIGHT ON BERLIN ALLY

Lower Branch in Debate Headed By Flood for Resolution.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The declaration of war against Austria was passed by the house late today.

Washington, Dec. 7.—With less than one hour's debate the senate today passed the resolution declaring war on Austria.

The resolution was adopted by the senate unanimously, 74 to 0.

Senators Gronna of North Dakota, Norris of Nebraska and Vardaman of Mississippi, who voted against the German war declaration, supported the resolution.

Senator La Follette of Wisconsin left during the speechmaking and did not cast his vote.

Debate on the Austrian war resolution began shortly after the senate convened, unanimous consent being secured for its immediate consideration.

Chairman Stone of the senate foreign relations committee today presented the senate war resolution and moved its immediate adoption.

Senator Stone Gives Reasons.  
Besides the reasons that Austria is Germany's active ally, and as such has committed warlike acts against the United States, Senator Stone declared there was the further reason, that inasmuch as Italy, France and Belgium comprised one battle front, American troops might at any time be facing Austrians.

Senator Stone made no reference to Turkish or Bulgarian relations.

"In this great world struggle," said Senator Stone, "all men know of the intimate and apparently indissoluble relations between the governments of Germany and Austria-Hungary. In the progress of events it has become manifest that the United States is inevitably as much at war with Austria-Hungary as with Germany. In the circumstances it is impossible that amicable relations between the two countries should be continued."

"In the prosecution of the war German and Austro-Hungarian troops are co-ordinated and co-operative."

Defining Battle Fronts.  
"The supreme war council at Paris has defined battle fronts in Europe, one of which has been defined to embrace France, Belgium and Italy. This reach is laid out as one continuous battle front under one general command."

"The United States is supporting Italy as well as England and France, and those countries in a like manner are supporting the United States in the war, they are all waging against the imperial German government. At that point the United States meets Austria-Hungary and Austria-Hungary is supporting Germany. The two nations are in close contact and in open coalition in the conduct of the war."

Senator Lodge Follows.  
Senator Lodge of Massachusetts, ranking Republican on the foreign relations committee, followed Senator Stone and gave reasons for favoring declarations of war against Turkey and Bulgaria, but declared unanimity of action was essential. For that reason he opposed amendment of the resolution to include the two lesser powers.

Flood Opens House Debate.  
Debate in the house on the resolution to declare war on Austria was opened by Chairman Flood of the foreign affairs committee. He asked the house to pass the resolution unanimously. The declaration, he said, was essential to the welfare of the allies and further, that Austria in an unrestricted and ruthless submarine warfare had sunk American ships and murdered American citizens.

"This is war; war by Austria upon this country. Our flag has been insulted, our territorial integrity invaded, the lives of our citizens taken and to submit it would bring irreparable injury, loss and suffering to our people," he declared. "Let us pass the resolution speedily, linking together for overwhelming defeat the two medieval governments which plunged the world into war and still stands as the worst obstacle to a just peace among the nations."

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